

**Information Regarding the Proposed Dedicatign of the Municipal
and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use for Powell Slough and an
Unnamed Tributary to Powell Slough for the Notice of Public
Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting
5 January 2010**

At the Public Workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting, Central Valley Water Board staff and interested parties will explore and discuss issues regarding the proposed dedesignation. The Meeting is a mandatory step in the process to evaluate whether the proposed dedesignation is appropriate to maintain the water quality objectives of the surface waterways in question.

Powell Slough consists of approximately 4.3 miles of surface water beginning at the confluence of Cheney Slough and Hopkins Slough, about one mile north of Highway 20 and two miles west of the City of Colusa, flowing south until it enters the Colusa Basin Drain. Powell Slough is bordered mostly by agricultural land, the majority of which is rice fields, but also includes open land and the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Although Powell Slough is a natural waterway, its primary purpose is for irrigation and is an integral part of the local irrigation network. The unnamed tributary to Powell Slough is an agricultural ditch that also serves as the receiving water for the effluent from the City of Colusa's (City) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and carries stormwater from the City. The unnamed tributary is approximately three miles long, begins at the southeast edge of the City, and flows south and east (a portion of which is adjacent to the WWTP) until it enters Powell Slough. There are several miles of additional agricultural ditches that branch into the unnamed tributary.

Agricultural irrigation in this area is mainly provided to rice crops. The downstream Colusa Basin Drain is specifically not designated for the MUN beneficial use.

The surface waters proposed for dedesignation do not currently provide a source of drinking water, nor are they fit for the purpose of providing a drinking water supply due to the lack of reliable year-round supply and the treatment that would be necessary to provide a reliable water supply. Dedesignation of these waterways will not degrade the current uses of the surface waters. Requiring protection of MUN will require costly controls that are more stringent than required under the Clean Water Act and are unnecessary for the protection of human health.

See the Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting Notice on the Central Valley Water Board website for additional information regarding Meeting procedures.